



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 2003

For Information Contact Public Affairs
HARRIET BERNICK
Telephone: (602) 514-7736
Pager: (602) 356-0004

BULLHEAD CITY RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF MULTIPLE PIPE BOMBS IN ATF'S OPERATION RIVERSIDE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –Paul K. Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, and Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announced that on December 2, 2003, TOMMAS LOYDE VEZIE (DOB 5-11-1965) of Bullhead City, Arizona, was sentenced to 41 months in prison and ordered to perform 100 hours of community service, for four counts of Unlawful Possession of Unregistered Pipe Bombs, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d), by United States District Judge James A. Teilborg, in Phoenix, Arizona.

On October 6, 2003, Vezie entered guilty pleas to the four felony counts. In the course of his guilty pleas, Vezie admitted the following facts. On July 9, 2002, Vezie sold five (5) pipe bombs to an ATF undercover agent in Mohave, County Arizona. The pipe bombs contained explosive materials and pyrotechnic fuse. The pipe bombs varied in size and contained one or more of the following components: polyvinyl chloride pipe, metal pipe, stucco cement, electrical tape, duct tape, aluminum foil, bullets, metal BB's and nails. On July 18, 2003, Vezie sold three additional pipe bombs to an ATF undercover agent in

(MORE)

Mohave County, Arizona. The pipe bombs each contained explosive materials and pyrotechnic fuse. Vezie also sold a quantity of homemade “napalm” to the undercover agent. At Vezie’s sentencing, the government noted Vezie exhibited an extreme disregard for human life by manufacturing and selling pipe bombs containing potential shrapnel and because Vezie brought a three-year old child with him when he sold the first five pipe bombs on July 9, 2002.

This prosecution is another success for the District of Arizona’s Project Safe Neighborhood’s firearms enforcement program and the first sentencing of the 18 defendants pending trial and sentencing in ATF’s Operation Riverside. The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive that is led by United States Attorney Paul K. Charlton. One of the priorities of Project Safe Neighborhoods, as well as ATF’s Operation Riverside, is the apprehension and prosecution of individuals who illegally manufacture, possess and market extremely dangerous weapons such as the pipe bombs in this case.

A conviction for Unlawful Possession of an Unregistered Destructive Device, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d), carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a \$10,000.00 fine or both.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

CASE NUMBERS: CR-03-374-PHX-JAT

RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-210